Present Simple Tense

A Comprehensive Guide to Structure, Rules, Usage & Practice

1. Primary Uses

The **Present Simple** is used to express facts, routines, general truths, and permanent states.

1. Habits & Routines

Actions that happen regularly or repeatedly.

- *I drink coffee every morning.*
- *They play tennis on Saturdays.*

2. General Truths & Facts

Scientific truths or permanent states.

- *Water boils at 100°C.*
- *The earth revolves around the sun.*

3. Permanent Situations

Things that remain true for a long time.

- *She lives in London.*
- *He works as an engineer.*

4. Timetables & Schedules

Fixed future events governed by schedules.

- *The train leaves at 8:00 AM.*
- *The movie starts at 7:30 PM.*

2. Sentence Structures

A. Affirmative Sentences

Subject + Base Verb (+ -s / -es for He / She / It)

Subject	Verb Form	Example
I / You / We / They	Base form	*They **play** soccer on weekends.*
He / She / It	Base form + **-s / -es**	*She **plays** soccer on weekends.*

B. Negative Sentences

Subject + do not / does not + Base Verb

Subject	Auxiliary + Verb	Example
I / You / We / They	do not / don't + Base Verb	*I **don't like** cold weather.*
He / She / It	does not / doesn't + Base Verb	*He **doesn't like** cold weather.*

C. Interrogative Sentences (Questions)

Do / Does + Subject + Base Verb ?

Auxiliary	Subject + Verb	Example
Do	I / you / we / they + Base Verb	***Do*** *you* ***speak*** *English?*
Does	he / she / it + Base Verb	***Does*** *she* ***work*** *here?*

3. Spelling Rules for 3rd Person Singular (He / She / It)

- **Most Verbs:** Add **-s**
  → *work → works, like → likes, read → reads, speak → speaks*
- **Verbs ending in -ch, -sh, -ss, -x, -z, -o:** Add **-es**
  → *watch → watches, wash → washes, pass → passes, fix → fixes, go → goes*
- **Verbs ending in Consonant + -y:** Change **-y** to **-ies**
  → *study → studies, fly → flies, carry → carries*
  (Note: Vowel + -y just adds -s: *play → plays, enjoy → enjoys*)

4. Common Signal Words

These adverbs and time phrases indicate routines or repeated actions in the Present Simple:

Adverbs of Frequency (placed before main verb)	Time Expressions (placed at start/end)
• **Always** (100%) • **Usually / Normally** (80-90%) • **Often / Frequently** (60-70%) • **Sometimes** (50%) • **Rarely / Seldom** (10%) • **Never** (0%)	• **Every** day / week / month / year • **On** Mondays / weekends • **In** the morning / afternoon / evening • **At** night / noon • **Once / Twice / Three times** a week

5. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Incorrect:** She likes not coffee. → **Correct:** She **doesn't like** coffee.
- **Incorrect:** Does he plays tennis? → **Correct:** Does he **play** tennis? *(Main verb stays in base form with 'does')*
- **Incorrect:** He work at a hospital. → **Correct:** He **works** at a hospital. *(Don't forget -s for third person)*

6. Practice Exercises

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. Sarah _____ (teach) English at the university.

2. We _____ (not / watch) TV during dinner.

3. _____ (he / go) to the gym every day?

4. The sun _____ (rise) in the east.

5. They _____ (fly) to Paris every summer.

Answer Key: 1. teaches | 2. do not watch / don't watch | 3. Does he go | 4. rises | 5. fly